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Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 SS-15
OMB-01 TRSE-00 NSC-05 /055 W
----------079192 111958Z /47
R 110725Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2954
INFO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 2681

FOR E, EA, AND EB

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, EGEN, AS
SUBJ: CIVIL AVIATION NEGOTIATIONS AS A POLITICAL ISSUE BETWEEN THE US AND GOA

REF: CANBERRA 2668

1. FEARING THAT A POLITICAL POINT, MADE TO DCM BY GOA MINISTER OF TRANSPORT PETER NIXON ABOUT US-AUSTRALIAN CIVIL AVIATION NEGOTIATIONS, MAY GET LOST IN REFTEL, EMBASSY WOULD LIKE TO FLAG FOR ADDRESSEES THE VERY REAL POLITICAL IMPORTANCE THE GOA ATTAHCES TO US-AUSTRALIAN CIVIL AVIATION NEGOTIATIONS.

2. WE ARE IN A STATE OF FUNDAMENTAL OPPOSITION. THE GOA SHARES WITH US THE DESIRE TO SEE LOWER FARES AND A GREATER MEASURE OF PROTECTION FOR CONSUMER INTERESTS. IT DOES NOT, HOWEVER, AGREE THAT THESE GOALS ARE BEST SERVED BY EXCESSIVE CAPACITY WHICH CAN ONLY DAMAGE THE ECONOMIC ABILITY OF SCHEDULED AIR CARRIERS TO PROVIDE THEIR SERVICES TO THE ENTIRE RANGE OF AIR TRAVELERS. THE GOA IS FURTHER EXTREMELY SKEPTICAL ABOUT THE BENEFIT
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TO BE GAINED BY ALLOWING EXTREME LOW COST (SUCH AS CHARTER OR NON-SCHEDULED) OPERATORS TO SKIM BUSINESS AWAY FROM SCHEDULED AIRLINES WHO PROVIDE A WIDER RANGE OF SERVICES TO THE ENTIRE SPECTRUM OF THE TRAVELING PUBLIC.

3. BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY, PETER NIXON MADE A POINT OF

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CRITICISING THE STATEMENT IN THE PRESIDENTIAL
LETTER OF JULY 20, 1977, APPROVING THE CAB'S DECISION TO
PERMIT A SECOND US FLAG CARRIER ON US-AUSTRALIAN ROUTES:
"NO SUBSTANTIAL FOREIGN POLICY CONSIDERATIONS.. ARE
PRESENT IN THIS MATTER." NIXON PROTESTED THAT FOR
AUSTRALIA THIS HAD BEEN A FOREIGN POLICY MATTER OF
SUFFICIENT IMPORTANCE FOR PM FRASER TO HAVE RAISED IT
PERSONALLY WITH PRESIDENT CARTER DURING FRASER'S VISIT
TO WASHINGTON. AUSTRALIA COULD NOT FAIL TO TAKE EXCEPT-
ION TO A STATEMENT, WHICH NO DOUBT EMERGED FROM DEEP WITHIN
THE BUREAUCRACY, THAT THERE WERE " NO SUBSTANTIAL FOREIGN
POLICY CONSIDERATIONS."
ALSTON

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 11 apr 1978
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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